

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

EnerSys, Inc.

Kentucky Manufacturing Assistance Center

EnerSys Gives A Charge To Its Environmental Efforts

Client Profile:

EnerSys Inc., a worldwide leader in stored energy solutions, is one of America's leading producers of DC power products, systems, and services providing stationary and motive power solutions to industrial users. The company, with a staff of nearly 500 people, is a major employer in Richmond, Kentucky.

Situation:

As a high-volume industrial consumer of water, EnerSys management in Richmond developed and implemented a water conservation effort that resulted in successfully reducing the plant's water consumption by 25 percent. However, the effort also increased the levels of sulfate in the waste stream to unacceptable levels. EnerSys contracted with the Kentucky Manufacturing Assistance Center (KMAC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to identify viable and cost-effective methods of achieving acceptable sulfate levels, implement new or improved methods, procedures, and techniques to reduce sulfates, and collect comparative industry data.

Solution:

KMAC undertook multiple tasks to achieve these results. First, after locating a chemical specialist to assist with the project, KMAC conducted extensive employee interviews and a facility audit before beginning a 24/7, week-long monitoring process that focused on personnel procedures as well as system and equipment processes. KMAC additionally collected comparative industry data to use as a basis for benchmarking. KMAC showed EnerSys management where the sulfate was being introduced and what steps were necessary to correct the current sulfate situation. KMAC also suggested methods to further improve future operations by developing a closed-loop system. After adopting KMAC's recommendations and putting them into place, EnerSys significantly reduced the amount of sulfates in the waste system and found that, as additional benefits, it saved money and improved its employees' skill sets.

Results:

Minimum cost savings of \$60,000 annually.
Gained better understanding of processes.
Retained 46 jobs.

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Implemented systems for improvement.
More competitive and profitable position.
Reduced defect rate.
Improved employee skills.
Benchmarked processes.

Testimonial:

"The Kentucky Manufacturing Assistance Center went above and beyond what we expected. They not only pinpointed where our sulfate problem was originating, but [also] how best to resolve it--both near- and long-term. They gave us exactly what we needed, when we needed it, plus saved us considerable time and money."

Perry Johnson, Cell Manufacturing Manager